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HEADQUARTERS
MILITARY AIR TRANSPORT SERVICE
ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE
Washington 25, DC

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6 April 1950

USAF Declass/Release Instructions On File

SUBJECT: Credit Line.

TO: Commanding Officer,
Air Rescue Service, MATS,
ATTN: Staff Intelligence Officer,
Washington 25, D.C.

1. There have been recent instances of "false confirmation" of intelligence reports which stem from the reproduction of material from informational intelligence publications without "crediting" the published source. These cases have usually occurred through a field agency reporting or disseminating intelligence without indicating that the intelligence has been previously published.

2. In view of the serious consequences that can arise from "false confirmation," all reporting units which reproduce or extract items from intelligence publications are directed to "credit" the original publication and continue the security classification established by that agency.

3. The following letter from Headquarters USAF, subject as above, dated 29 March 1950, is quoted for your information and compliance:

"1. Written materials taken from intelligence publications frequently are reproduced, extracted, or rewritten and given wide distribution both laterally and to subordinate commands. This procedure opens the possibility that reprinted material may be used to verify or confirm the original material and thus provide a false corroboration leading to erroneous conclusions.

"2. It is essential that commanders at all USAF echelons take the necessary action to insure that intelligence materials, which may be rewritten, extracted, or reproduced and given wider dissemination, are appropriately classified and individually identified as to publication and departmental source. While the "Third Agency" rule no longer applies as between intelligence agencies of the Department of Defense, these instructions do not modify the "Third Agency" rule with respect to other agencies and departments or change the limitations currently placed upon dissemination by the originating authorities, nor do they authorize the disclosure of covert or classified sources. Special cases should be referred to this headquarters prior to republication."

4. The change in the "Third Agency" rule referred to above means that Air Force may now turn over to Navy an intelligence document

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originating in Army without specific permission of Army. However, none of these Defense Department agencies may pass on to each other a document originating in Central Intelligence Agency, State Department, Commerce, or other "Third Agency". Release of such document is still a matter between the "Third Agency" and the component of the Defense Department concerned.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL KUTER:

/t & s/ JOSEPH G. MAHER,
Lt Colonel, USAF
Chief Intelligence
Division

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dated 30 April 1950

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